

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087428

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 L-01 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN:KAD

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PM:DJAMES (SUBST)

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P R 162128Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087428

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US

SUBJECT: U.S./PHILIPPINE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A. MANILA 4560

B. MANILA 4661

1. WE REGRET THAT THE OMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM
THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT SPEECH MAY BE TAKEN BY THE GOP AS
DELIBERATE AND THAT SOME MAY THINK THIS SOMEHOW REFLECTS A
DOWNGRADING IN THE U.S./PHILIPPINE RELATIONSHIP. THE
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WAS NOT MEANT TO SIGNAL NOR PERMIT AN
INFERENCE THAT WE WERE DOWNGRADING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 087428

PHILIPPINES.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA WILL INEVITABLY AFFECT OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER FRIENDLY ASIAN STATES. WE WILL BE ALERT TO ANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC AIRINGS OF THE CONTINUING IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO U.S./GOP TIES. LANGUAGE ALONG THIS LINE IS BEING PROVIDED FOR POSSIBLE USE BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS APRIL 17 APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. ALSO, WE ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO PUT THE MATTER IN THE PROPER CONTEXT. I.E. THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES REMAIN AMATTER OF INTEREST AND HIGH PRIORITY. YOUR RECENT PRESS INTERVIEW (CARRIED IN WASHINGTON POST APRIL15) SEEMS A CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE TO PUT OUR POSITION IN THE PROPER LIGHT.

3. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES TO REASSURE THE GOP THAT THE PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS SERVE THEIR INTERESTS IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN A SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP. WHILE READY TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS, WE DO NOT WANT TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND, PARTICULARLY, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED BY ANY PROSPECT THAT THE PHILIPPINES MAY WANT TO RAISE BASE RENTAL,AN ISSUE WHICH WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH AT THIS TIME. WE WANT YOU TO ENSURE THAT PHILS ARE NOT BEING GIVEN ANY ENCOURAGEMENT BY OUR PEOPLE ALONG THESE LINES.

4. AS FOR YOUR RECOMMENDATION THAT THE PRESIDENT CONSIDER VISITING MANILA WHILE RETURNING FROM CHINA, WE CANNOT USEFULLY CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE SCHEDULE AT THIS TIME. DURING YOUR HOME LEAVE WE MAY BE IN A BETTER POSITIONTO DISCUSS THE PROS AND CONS. MEANWHILE, WE WILL KEEP AN EYE COCKED FOR THE TRAVELS OF OTHER SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WHOSE SCHEDULES MIGHT PERMIT THEM TO UNDERSCORE CONTINUED USG INTEREST IN PHILIPPINES BY VISITS TO MANILA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE087428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ECHULEN:KAD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750133-0734
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750444/aaaabpjl.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 MANILA 4560
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S./PHILIPPINE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, RP, US
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006